



## Jermaine Pilkington - Class of 2016

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Jermaine is a proven case of what doesn't break you makes you stronger. His mum told us, "If he can inspire anyone with his story then it will be a positive in his eyes."

When leaving high school the first thing Jermaine did was sign up to college on an electrician course, he also got himself a job at McDonald's even though his friends made fun of him for this, he still carried on, as his goal in life was to join the army.

After completing his level one in electronics, he went to the army careers office and signed all the documentation that was needed, however, Jermaine was told he was overweight and that he should return in a year's time as he had a lot of weight to lose. Jermaine decided that he was not going to wait a year and he said he would be back in a few months ...from this he came home and said to his mum: "I am coming Slimming World with you!! "

He went to the group every single week, sat with a bunch of ladies and smashed his weight goal every session. Again he was called names and ridiculed from his friends for doing this but Jermaine carried on as his goal was the thing he was focusing on. He lost in total nearly five stone and received the 'Man of the Year' award and was in the Lancashire Evening Post.

Eight weeks after entering the army careers office and was told he was overweight Jermaine walked back in and shocked everybody! He then travelled to Edinburgh to do his medical, and passed.



He was stationed at the army training centre in Pirbright doing his Phase 1 and passed out this summer.

Jermaine said, "Getting up at 5am every day for training is hard, however I have travelled more in the last few months than ever". Jermaine has travelled to Belgium to visit the war memorials and marched in front of veterans, he placed down poppies in front of over 400 people, he has been to watch motor-biking rallies, he has learnt to shoot a rifle and spent a week in the field. He is currently in Wales canoeing, caving and rock climbing and generally living life to the full. He is also enjoying his wage packet which is a big incentive!

Jermaine recently returned to Priory to meet with Assistant Headteacher, Mr Gee. It is wonderful to hear how this inspiring young man has fulfilled his dreams.